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NOTES ON GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

Reptilia, Polychrotidae, *Polychrus peruvianus*: New country record, Ecuador

Mario Yánez-Muñoz
Flor Ortiz M.
Marco Altamirano B.

División de Herpetología, Sección Vertebrados, Museo Ecuatoriano de Ciencias Naturales (MECN) E-mail: m.yanez@mecn.gov.ec

The arboreal lizards of the genus *Polychrus* inhabit the Amazonian, Atlantic and Chocoan tropical forests of South America. It inhabits the diagonal belt of South American open formations, such as the Chaco, Cerrado and Caatinga (Peters and Donoso-Barros 1970, Dixon 1979). In Ecuador, this genus is currently represented by five species distributed in the Pacific (*Polychrus gutturosus gutturosus*, *Polychrus spurrelli*, *Polychrus femoralis*) and Amazonian (*Polychrus marmoratus*, *Polychrus liogaster*) slopes of the Andes (Almendáriz "1991" 1992, Torres-Carvajal 2001).

The species *Polychrus peruvianus* (Noble 1924) was described with specimens from "Valle de Querocotilla", Cajamarca, Peru (Figure 1). The distribution range of this species is restricted to the departments of Amazonas, Cajamarca and Piura (Noble 1924, Peters and Donoso-Barros 1970, Carrillo and Icochea 1995), and was considered as endemic from Peru by Carrillo and Icochea (1995). Herein, we present the first record of *Polychrus peruvianus* from Ecuador.

Material herein reported is deposited at the Division of Herpetology, Museo Ecuatoriano de Ciencias Naturales (DHMECN). Morphometric measurements were taken based on Vitt and De la Torre (1996).

A male specimen of *Polychrus peruvianus* (DHMECN 1762 Fig.2) was collected at Pucabamba (04°57´01" S 79°10´30" W, 1400m above sea level; Fig1.), Province of Zamora-Chinchipe, Republic of Ecuador, by local people and delivered to Francisco Sornoza on September 2003. The specimen was found on the side of a road over bushes. Unfortunately local people killed the lizard because they thought it was venomous. This locality increases the distribution range of the species in 97.2 km N from the closest known locality (Bellavista), and represents the first record from Ecuador (Figure1).

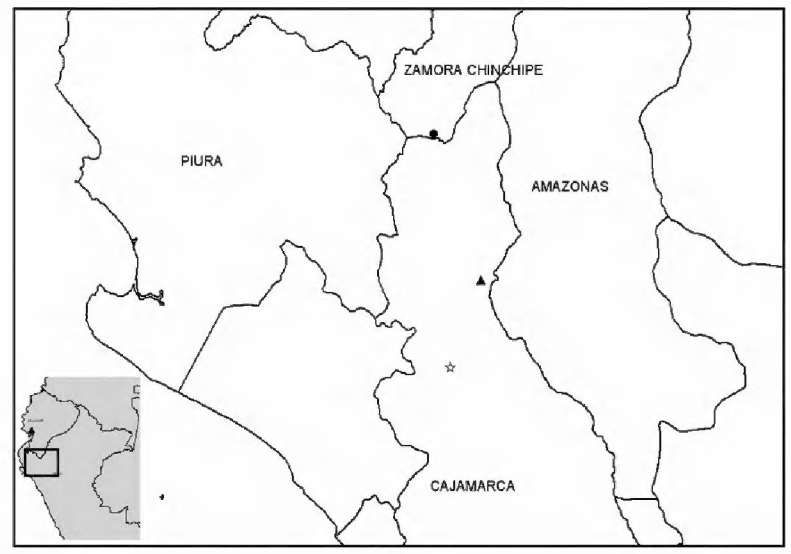

Figure 1. Distribution of *Polychrus peruvianus* in Ecuador and Peru. Stars: type locality, Valle of Querocotilla; Triangule: Bellavista; Dot: Pucapamba, New Record Country.

This specimen agrees well with the description of the species by Noble (1924), differing from other congeneric species by having a pronounced nuchal and dorsal crest, gular sac with anterior denticulations formed by enlarged scales (Figure 2). The specimen is a male as it shows enlarged femoral pores and whitish head. The measurements of the specimen are (in millimeters): 145.4 in snout-vent length, 423.7 in tail length, 20.5 in head width, 36.4 in head length (from the tip of the snout to the anterior margin of the tympanum), 71.5 leg length (from the insertion of the leg to the tip of the longest toe), and 62.4 arm length (from the insertion of the arm to the tip of the longest finger).

Finally, the genus *Polychrus* in Ecuador conforms to for 6 species. Although we don't have precise information on the state of conservation of this species, apparently it is strange, of which few registrations are known in the Museums of Natural History, for what is important that initiatives binacionales are developed for the evaluation of the populational state and categorization of threats for the species.

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Figure 2. A) *Polychrus peruvianus* ♂ DHMECN 01762, lateral view of head; and B) dorsal view of head.

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